

Grand Forks Historic Preservation Commission
255 North Fourth Street
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Minutes
GFHPC Meeting via Zoom
August 11, 2020

Commissioners present: Chuck Flemmer, Bill Caraher, Jessa Novak, Nicole Derenne, Sandy Slater, Brian Carlson, Gordon Iseminger, Judy Swisher, Cory Lien, Douglas Munski

Guests present: Agatha Frisby, Prairie Centre Architecture

Call to order: Chuck Flemmer called the meeting to order at 6.32 p.m.

1. **Approval of Minutes** from July 14 meeting.
 - Moved Munski, second Swisher. Motion carries.
2. Presentation of nomination of the GF Municipal Airport Building to the National Register, Agatha Frisby, Prairie Center Architecture.
 - Vote to open the public hearing. Moved Lien, second Derenne. Motion carries.
 - Ms. Frisby provided a summary of her research of the building, its history, architecture and viability for nomination. Commissioners provided comments and asked questions pertaining to the building, and expressed interest in sharing this building's importance with students in Aerospace and the public once the nomination is accepted by NPS. Derenne also suggested a virtual exhibit in the magic box in the Chester Fritz Library.
 - Vote to close public hearing – moved Munski, second Derenne. Motion carries.
 - Vote to refer the nomination to the State Historical Society Review Board. Ms. Frisby will present the nomination on August 28, 2020. Moved Iseminger, second Novak. Motion carries.

3. Section 106 Reviews

- **RRVCA**

- i. 227 Seward Ave: Historic district

- Motion: No adverse effect: Moved Derenne, Second Slater. Motion carries.

- ii. 1102 Oak Street. Not in a historic district

- Motion: No historic properties affected: Moved Munski, second Slater. Motion carries.

- iii. 915 S. 18th Street – Not in a historic district

- Motion: No historic properties affected: Moved Slater, second Swisher. Motion carries.

4. Chair Report- Chuck Flemmer

- **Downtown Design and Review Board**

- i. The DDRB met on July 30 to review and approve the revised plans for the alley-side wall of Epic Place. The new proposal offers an improvement of the chosen materials. The board also approved plans for a projecting sign on the historic Mill Square.

- ii. The DDRB met on August 6 to review the Design Review Standards for downtown.

- **Grand Forks County Courthouse**

- i. Chuck and Susan met with Haley Wamstad, Grand Forks County state attorney, and Todd Blixt, Icon Architects to discuss two options for safety renovations for their offices. They are looking to address both security and public health concerns for their staff. One option is to mirror the renovations done on the first floor to create a public window using existing and original materials. The second option is to erect a glass wall in the open corridor to make use of the space, allowing staff to distance from one another while maintain the visual integrity of the open corridors either side of the rotunda. Todd is preparing a rendering of option 2.

5. Coordinator Report – Susan Caraher

- **CLG Program Review – due September 30**

- Project Updates
 - i. Windshield Survey of Mid-century Homes: Susan shared a PowerPoint showing some of the homes documented to date. Bill noted that much of the writing has been done and we just need to work in the documentation piece. There was a discussion of homes that have fallout shelters with a couple identified in the city. The research on mid-century has led to questions about the City's role during the Cold War and its connection with the GF Air Base and post-war security.
 - ii. Lyons HABS report – Susan shared the architectural plans prepared by Agatha Frisby for the Lyons', Jack's and Marble Works buildings. We will share the HABS report for Lyons ahead of our September meeting.
- Thurber plaque
 - i. Looking for a contractor to help install
 - ii. NPR is planning an interview later this week
 - iii. A request has gone to the USACE for approval of a concrete pad and bench installation

6. Other business

- NPS has confirmed extending the deadline for our current projects to September 2021 to allow time for us to access libraries.
- City has some historic records we are trying to have taken to Special Collections, but we have held on to several issues of the old City Directory.
- Chuck and Susan have a meeting with the Mayor next week to provide a brief of projects, past, current and future.
- Conference – Susan will reach out to the State to discuss options.
- Congratulations to Dr. Iseminger for receiving the State Historic Society's Heritage Profile Honor Award.

Call to adjourn – Moved Munski, seconded Derenne. Meeting adjourned at 7:43pm

Next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 8.

We will continue to monitor the COVID guidelines regarding in-person and virtual meetings.